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Instructions to Yeardley, 1626.

[MCDONALD PAPERS, VOL. I, VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY.]

[Yeardley's second term as Governor began May 17th, 1626, and extended to November 14th, 1627.]

Instructions from the Lords of His Ma^{ties} Most Hon^{ble} Privy Councill, To Sir George Yardly, Knt., Governor of Virginia, and to the Hon^{ble} Council of State there:

Ye 19th day of April, 1626.

1. That you, ye s^d Sir George Yardly, do use your best endeavours to be ready with such ships and vessels, Men and Provisions as ye have furnished for ye purpose upon ye first fair wind and weather, to put to sea, and to sail directly for Virginia, unless ye shall find it requisite for ye good of ye Plantacon and peoples to touch at ye Summer Islands by ye way. When after ye have refreshed ye shall proceed to Virginia, and upon yo^r arrival there according to your commission granted by His Most Xtian Maj^{ty} under ye great Seal, take upon you ye present government of the Colony.

2. That in the first place you be carefull that Almighty God may be duly and daily served, both by yourself and all the people under yo^r charge, w^{ch} may draw down a blessing upon all your Endeavours.

3. That you faile not by the first Ship to send us a list of all the severall plantacons, ye places where they are planted, the distance between the Plantations, the number of people in every Plantation distinguished by their sexes, ages, Professions and Condition, and also by ye place of every ones birth, and the manner of their Patents here in England. What arms, Ammunition, Boats or Ships, Dwelling Houses and other Buildings?

What unpaled ground? Provision of Food or store of Tame Cattle in every of ye s^d Plantations.

4. That you diligently and particularly enquire by oath and all other lawfull means what Lands, Woods, Serv^{ts}, Tenem^{ts}, Houses, Boats, Ships were in November, 1623, belonging unto

ye late Company. How and to whom they have been disposed? By what order and authority they have been so disposed and what ye shall find remaining to reserve to the public use. All which you are to certify under ye Hands and Seale of the Colony.

5. That all new comers be well entertained and lodged in houses by the old Planters untill they can lodge themselves, that they be not suffered to sit down stragling, but enjoined to live by those already planted or in sufficient number by themselves. And if be unprovided of Land fit to manure, then to be permitted to sit down upon the Company's Land upon the conditions expressed in the Treas' and Councils Letter sent immediately after the Massacre in August, 1623.

6. That all new comers be exempted ye 1st year from going in p^{son} or contributing to the war save only in defence of the place where they shall inhabit, and that only when the enemy shall assail it. But all others in the colony shall be rated to ye maintenance of ye warrs proportionally to their abilities. Neither shall any man be priviledged from going to the wars that is above seventeen years old and under 60. Respect being had to the quality of the persons, that officers be not forced to go as private soldiers, or in places inferior to their degrees, unless in cases of extream necessity.

7. That the merchants be not constrained to take Tobacco at 3. p. Pound in exchange for his wares, but that it be lawfull for him to make his own bargain for his goods be so changable notwithstanding any Proclamation published there to the contrary.

8. That ye call for ye charter parties that the Masters of ships bring along with them and straightly examine whether they have truly performed ye condicon of their contracts, especially to enquire whether they have not pestred their ships with passengers, and whether they have given sufficient and wholesom food and drink during ye voyage, and as ye find to certify ye Lords of his Maj^{ty} privy councill or ye comm^{ty} of Virginia.

9. That ye be carefull that the good ship the Annie wherein ye are to embarque yourself and the James that goeth in concert wth you be not pestred with passengers and y^t ye Masters of

ye same ships do give the Passengers sufficient and wholesom food and drink during the voyage.

10. That in regard ye may daily expect ye coming of a fforeign Enemy, Wee require you after your first landing that you publish by Proclamation through the Colony that no person whatsoever upon ye arrivall of any Ship or Ships shall dare to go aboard without express warrant from you ye Gove^r and Councill, least by that means they be surprised to the great prejudice if not overthrow of the Plantacon.

11. To avoid that intollerable abuse of Ingrossing comodities and forestalling ye Market, That you require all Masters of ships not to break Bulk till their arrivall at James City, or other wise without special order from you ye Governor and Councill.

12. That you endeavour by severe punishment to suppress drunkenness and that you be carefull that great Quantities of Wine and strong Drink be not sold into the hands of those who are likeliest to abuse it, but that as near as you can, it may be equally disposed of for the comfort and reliefe of ye whole Plantacon. And if any Merc^h or any other for private lucre shall bring in any rotten and unwholesome wines or strong drink, such as may endanger ye health of ye people, That ye suffer it not to be sold there, but do cause them to ship it back again.

13. That whereas the Tobacco falleth every day more and more to a baser price, We require you to use your best Endeavours to cause ye people there to apply themselves more to ye raising of more staple comodities as likewise to ye impaling of Gardens and Orchards and enclosing of Grounds for all manner of Cattle, whereby the Hire of the Country may be advanced in abundance.

14. That you cause ye people to plant such store of corn as there may be a whole year's provision before hand in ye Colony, least relying upon ye Single Harvest by Drought, blasting or other waies they fall into such wants & fammines as formerly they have endured.

15. That you may the better avoid the Treachery of ye Savages and prevent such Dangers as heretofore have fallen upon the Country, you strictly forbid all persons whatsoever to receive into their Houses any of ye Indians, or to parly, converse or

trade with them without especial License and warrant given to that purpose, according to y^{or} Commission, inflicting severe Punishment upon ye Offenders.

16. That whereas by y^{or} last Letters from Virginia, wee are given to understand that of those who are now nominated for Councillors there, some are Dead and others are coming home. Wee do authorize you ye Gov^{er} to make choice of such as you in y^{or} Judgment shall think most fitt to supply their places, and to administer to them an oath as you are directed by y^r Commission that so in these dangerous times there may not be wanting a sufficient number to assist in ye Government of the affairs of that Colony.

As also to administer the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy to all such as come hither w^h an intention to plant & reside there, which if they shall refuse he is to be returned or shipped from thence home. The same oath to be administered to all other p^{sons} when ye shall see it fitt, as Mariners, Merch^{ts}, &c., to prevent danger by Spyes.

17. And to conclude, That in all things according to your best endeavour, you endeavour the extirpating of vice and the encouragement of virtue and goodness.

THOS. COVENTRY, C.,
MARLBURGH,
WORSTER,
PEMBROKE &
MONTGOMERY,
E. COMBY,
J. EDMONDS,
J. SUCKLING,
D. CHARLETON,
JOHN COOK,
HUMPHREY MAY,
C. R.